

that I might not succeed based on my lack of leadership experience and my shy personality; and considering the busy life of pharmacy students, it is not easy to introduce them to a new plan requiring more of their time. I also lived very far from the campus during my internship; but the Lord is so faithful to His work – He has answered our prayers and He is still fulfilling His will through the CPFI Chapter at University of Rwanda. I

thank God that He has blessed my few days of outreach at the University of Rwanda; and by His faithfulness, He continues the work He has begun there. Since my graduation in August 2012, I have been working on organizing the CPFI-Rwanda Chapter (pharmacists and pharmacy students) in partnership with Paul Kabanga Kapuya and the entire CPFI Family.

As a Rwandan pharmacist, I graduated from the former National University of Rwanda in 2012. I worked in retail pharmacy after graduation (2013-2014). Since January 2015, I have been a medical representative at Ethica for the account of Merck Sharp and Dohme. In October 2015, I also became the owner and pharmacist at Good Life Pharmacy LTD (a retail pharmacy in Nyabihu, Rwanda). I am currently President of the CPFI-Rwanda Chapter which is still in the process of becoming established.

Just Make Time for Jesus by Paul Petrillo and Jason Bowen



Over the course of our lives it is easy to become consumed with all we have to do on a daily basis. It doesn't take much to realize that once a pharmacist, technician or intern steps into the pharmacy, there is very little idle time. There is always a patient who has a question, a phone call to answer, messages to check, supplies to be ordered or medications to prepare. All of that is just the first 10 minutes of your day! Likewise, pharmacy school is no walk in the park. If there isn't studying to be done, there is a project to work on, an organizational or volunteer event to attend, a trip to plan or an application to complete. The business of life often diverts our attention from the true reason we are placed on this earth, which is to share the love of Christ with those around us and lead others to Him.

One such instance of this occurred in the early evening of February 3, 2016 at the Lloyd L. Gregory School of Pharmacy at Palm Beach Atlantic University. I was attending our chapter's regularly scheduled CPFI meeting as I had been doing since the Fall semester. After the meeting was over, I headed off in distress to a study room to panic and attempt to prepare for the next day's therapeutics exam. A few minutes later, my friend, Jason Bowen, called me over and asked to chat for a bit. I thought it was pertaining to the upcoming exam, but boy was I in for a surprise. We headed outside and found some tables where we could talk. This is when my friend turned and told me, "I can't sit idly by anymore. I don't care that we have an exam tomorrow. What I am about to say is much more important than that... What's holding you back?" I was thrown and confused. He continued, "You have been to the CPFI meetings, we've had several discussions and I see you struggling with your faith. What is holding you back from accepting salvation?"

To fully understand where I was coming from, I should share a little about myself. I grew up in a Christian home and attended Faith Christian Academy in Orlando, FL from 1st grade till my senior year. It was during these years that I was taught Biblical principles. However, for some reason I never felt like a true believer. Each time I heard someone else's testimony, the common theme was that a dramatic change occurred in their lives. In the past I thought that I had accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior, yet in my case there was no noticeable change in my life. I was still struggling with the same sins from my past. That part of my life did not change and therefore after much reflection, I was convinced that I was never truly saved. After some trial and error regarding the plan of salvation, I had this crazy mistaken idea that I had to be perfect before coming to God with my troubles. I felt in a sense that I had used up all of my salvation "tickets" and that the next time I came to the Lord was the last chance I had, and I didn't want to blow it.

Now back to my story. I finally understood where Jason was going with his questions and I naturally became a little defensive. I tried to explain my situation to him, but he was adamant in his stance and for good reason. Jason was trying to explain to me how everyone's walk with Christ is different. He shared with me the story of the thief on the cross (Luke 23:39-43) and how the thief had no chance to make up for his sins, yet Jesus forgave him and welcomed him into heaven with open arms. Jason also shared that it's okay not to have a night and day salvation experience. He assured me that not everyone's salvation experience is similar to the one Saul had on the road to Damascus.

At this point, I knew I was at a crossroads. Apparently Jason could tell and so he suggested that instead of continuing to talk in circles, that I take some time to think and pray about what we had discussed. As he left the table, I did just that. At first, I did not want to change. I was still stuck in my past. But then my thoughts turned to the thief on the cross. He committed countless crimes and sins, and yet Jesus forgave him and saved him at that instant. The key was that the thief had the desire to be saved. I had that same desire to change, to change my ways. I began to accept that the key for me was to be Christ-like and not perfect like Christ. I considered that if the thief had lived, then he would have attempted to gradually change his life. Shortly after coming to this realization, I called Jason over and asked him to pray with me. I thanked the Lord for His free gift of salvation and asked that He would forgive me of my sins and guide me to live a life that would bring Him honor and glory.

I now understand that there is a difference between *salvation* and *sanctification*. I know that by God's grace and through my faith in Jesus, I have the certainty of spending eternity in heaven – so I know that my *salvation* is secure and guaranteed. As for my *sanctification*: that is an ongoing, lifelong process as God continues to slowly transform me into the image of His Son. Like every other believer, I'm a work in progress.

Today Jason and I are third year students striving to complete our last didactic semester of pharmacy school. I am still not where I want to be in my walk with Christ, but I am thankful that I am not who I used to be! As the Bible says in Philippians 3:14, I will continue to press toward the mark for the prize!

Paul Petrillo was born and raised in Orlando, FL. He went to Faith Christian Academy from first grade until high school. Since high school, Paul always knew he wanted to become a pharmacist. Part of his inspiration to become a pharmacist

came from his aunt, who was a former pharmacist. She would take care of him and his siblings after school which allowed him to be immersed in the field of pharmacy. After graduating high school, he went on to study at Valencia College where he received his Associate of Arts degree. Now, Paul is a third year pharmacy student enrolled in the Lloyd L. Gregory School of Pharmacy program at Palm Beach Atlantic University.

Jason Bowen was born in New York City, NY. At a young age his family moved to Tampa, Florida where they began attending West Gate Baptist Church. After a Sunday school message in 2000, Jason accepted the Lord as his Savior. He graduated from West Gate Christian School in 2009 before going on to graduate from the University of South Florida in 2014 with a degree in Biomedical Sciences and a minor in Public Health. Jason currently serves as the President of the PBA student chapter of CPFI and attends Central Baptist Church in West Palm Beach. His hobbies include playing basketball, bike riding, reading, volunteering and spending time with friends and family. His life verse is Proverbs 20:11 (KJV) which says, "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right."

CPFI Southeast Regional Student Retreat



On the chilly weekend of January 28th and 29th 2017 Christian pharmacy students from all over the Southeast gathered together for worship, service, Biblical study, and fellowship. The second annual CPFI Southeast Regional Student Retreat was held this year at Wingate University in North Carolina. Forty-five students from eight different pharmacy schools attended. Speakers including Fred Eckel, Joy Greene, Keith Allhands, Bob Cisneros, Campbell McInnes, and Susan Smith presented challenging messages to students at each session. Topics from Scientific and Historical Evidences of Faith to Medication Safety provided valuable lessons in both faith and pharmacy practice. Students also participated in a service project in which they prepared lunches and hygiene kits for a local homeless shelter. On Friday night, a game night fellowship was held at a cozy renovated barn with a bonfire. Students in the Southeast region look forward to further involved in CPFI and seeing each other again at the National Conference this summer.